Alviso Dumping Areas (UD#2 IX-9)
Alviso, California
30 June 1985

Location and Nature of Site

The Alviso Dumping Areas site covers approximately 45 acres at the southern end of San Francisco Bay. This area of Alviso had been used as a landfill during the 1950's and 1960's. The landfill, and other areas of the town, may have received asbestos-contaminated waste over the last 25 years.

The original discovery of asbestos occurred in 1983 during excavations along the north levee of the Guadalupe River. After this discovery, the Santa Clara Valley Water District was ordered to dispose of the excavated material as a hazardous waste. The situation was complicated by winter flooding which spread contamination to other areas of the community.

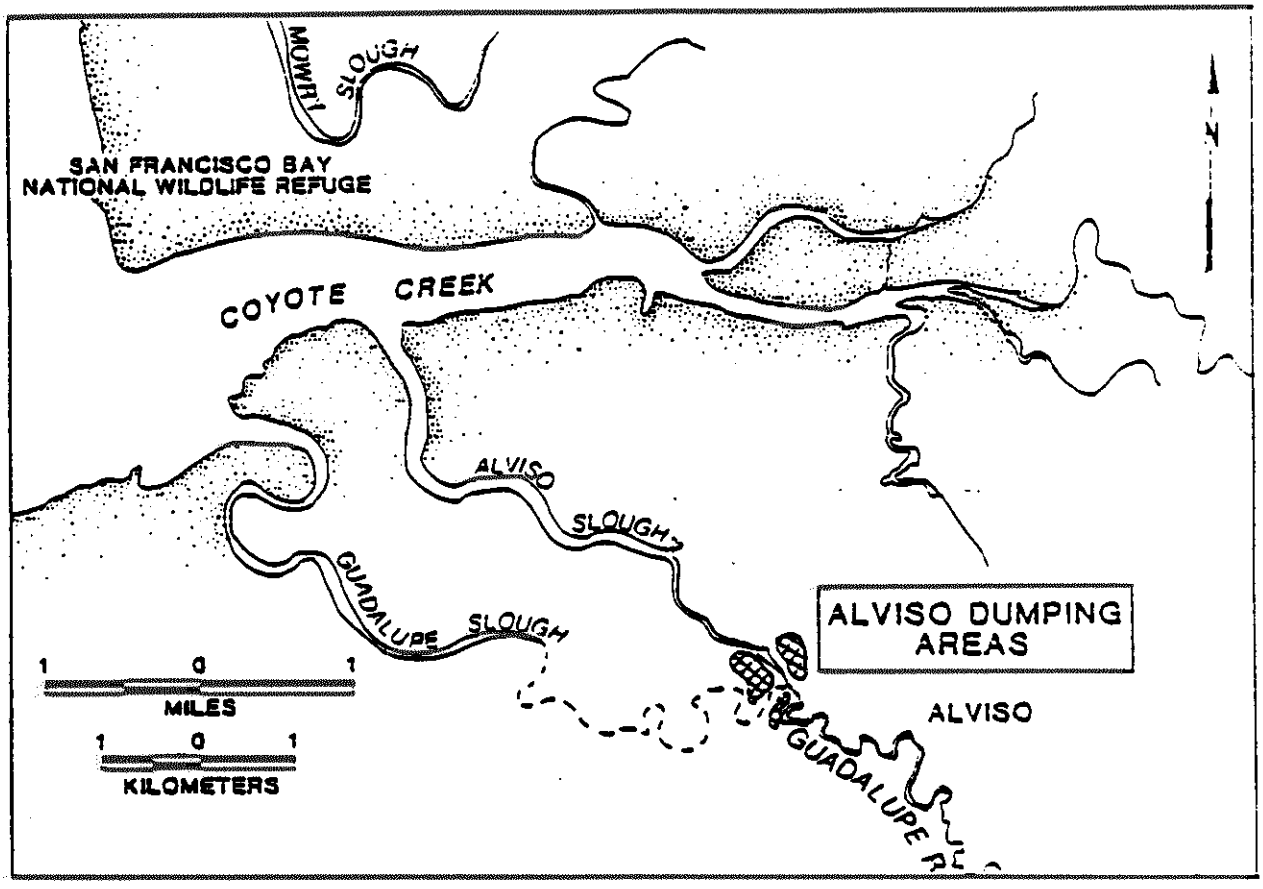
The principal concern of EPA, the State of California, Santa Clara County, and local agencies is the potentially serious contamination of the soil and ground- and surface water in the vicinity of former disposal areas. Monitoring wells located in the vicinity of the dumping areas showed contamination levels of 1% and 5% asbestos, as well as trace metals.

Proximity of Chemical Hazard to Marine Resources

Both banks of the Guadalupe Slough, a mobile home trailer park, commercial areas, and portions of the Alviso Slough flood plain, are all within the area of asbestos contamination. Asbestos-contaminated surface runoff flows into the Alviso and Guadalupe Sloughs during periods of heavy rains. Two consecutive winter floods in 1982 and 1983 probably caused contamination of the sloughs by asbestos laden water and soil.

Trace amounts of organic chemicals (less than 30 ppb) were found in soil samples taken from various locations within the boundaries of the site. Two types of asbestos, crocidolite (blue) and chrysotile (white), have been found in soil samples collected in the town of Alviso.

No sampling has been conducted in either the Guadalupe River or Alviso Slough. It is suspected, though not yet confirmed, that there may be


MOWRY SLOUGH
SAN FRANCISCO BAY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
COYOTE CREEK
ALVISO SLOUGH
GUADALUPE SLOUGH
ALVISO DUMPING AREAS
ALVISO
GUADALUPE R.
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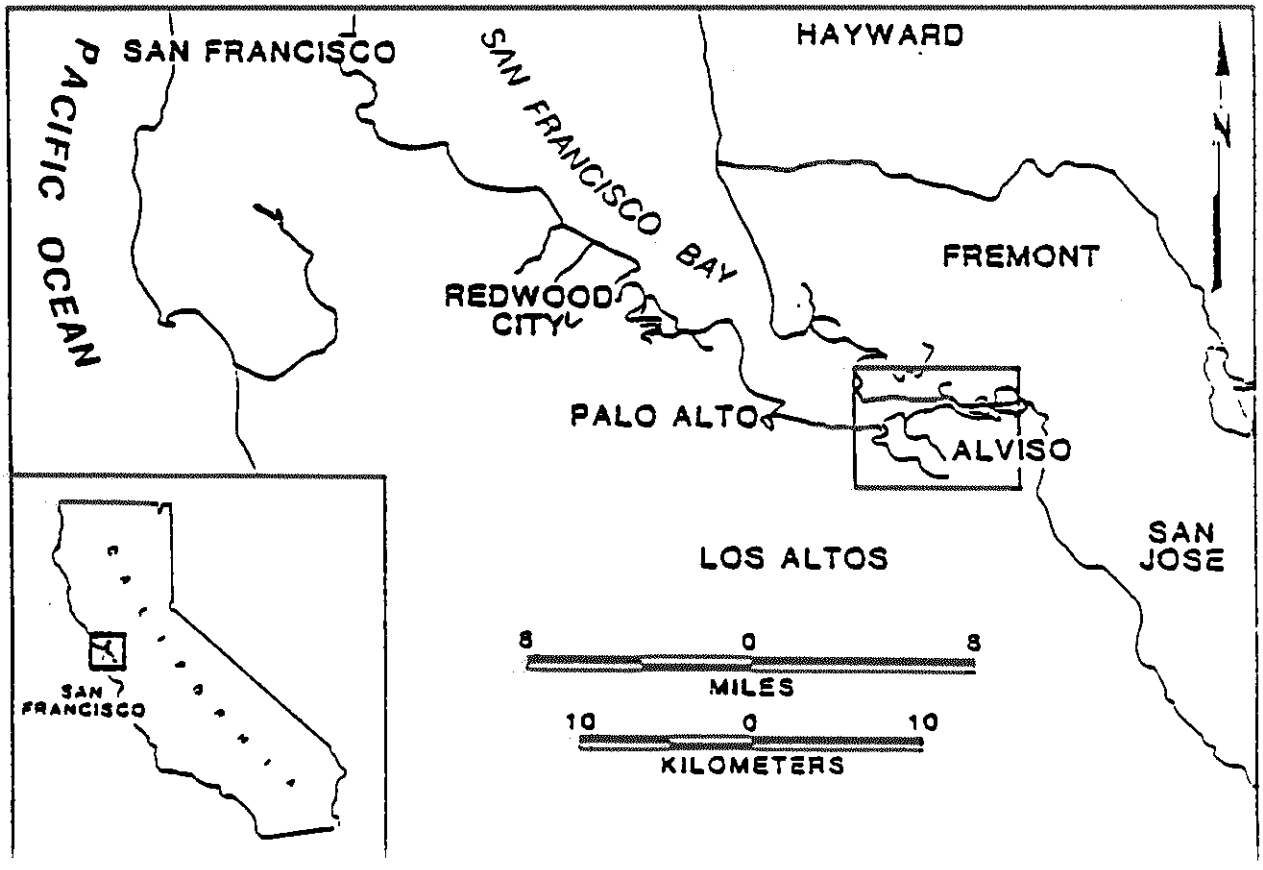
SAN FRANCISCO
PACIFIC OCEAN
SAN FRANCISCO BAY
HAYWARD
FREMONT
REDWOOD CITY
PALO ALTO
ALVISO
LOS ALTOS
SAN JOSE
SAN FRANCISCO
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MILES
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KILOMETERS

significant levels of asbestos and heavy metals and trace quantities of other organic chemicals in the sloughs.

Marine Resources at Risk

Alviso Slough and Guadalupe Slough flow northwest to Coyote Creek, which forms the southern most part of San Francisco Bay. These tributaries provide a significant habitat for anadromous and other fish, including steelhead trout, striped bass, sturgeon, surf perch, flat fish, and clams. The sloughs may serve as a nursery area for striped bass. The marine resources of the area are not commercially harvested, but there are recreational fisheries in the Guadalupe River.

Harbor seals are known to use the mouth of Coyote Creek as a nursery area. The endangered brown pelican and California clapper rail use wetlands associated with the sloughs and creek. Numerous species of shorebirds and wading birds also nest in wetland areas. The endangered salt harvest mouse uses the wetlands near Alviso Slough.

Site Chronology

June 1983	Soil excavated from north level of slough removed from site and disposed of as a hazardous material.
August 1983	Santa Clara County Health Department discovers elevated levels of asbestos in levees of Guadalupe Slough.
Oct. 1983	State of California finds elevated asbestos levels in air samples taken in residential areas.
Jan. 1984	EPA, State, and county health officials meet to work out plan for public health considerations.
April 1984	EPA requests $1,000,000 for dust control operations and excavations at site.
Nov. 1984-Feb. 1985	Sampling and soil excavation conducted as hot spots are discovered. Air and groundwater monitoring continue.

NOAA Reviewer: Stewart McGee, Jr., NOAA Hazardous Materials Response Branch

EPA Contact: Paul La Courre, Project Officer

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